



the carriage house or garage. Doors are often of painted wood with window lights or a patterned wood panel design.

Streetscape Character

STREETS

Nineteenth-century streets have a narrow cross section, usually 28 to 30 feet in width, with parallel parking on one or two sides. When parallel parking is provided on both sides of the street, a ‘yield street’ condition may result, providing a 12- to 16-foot drive aisle for two-way traffic between parked vehicles.

Narrow one-way streets may ring small parks or other public spaces. These narrow streets usually have parallel parking on one side and a total cross section of 16 to 20 feet.

CURBS

Curbs are 6 to 8 inches tall and may be made of granite or concrete. Old concrete curbs may incorporate a steel angle to protect the curb edge from deterioration.

VERGES & STREET TREES

Verges or tree lawns may range from 2 to 5 feet in width. Verges may be landscaped or hard-surfaced with brick or concrete. When hard-surfaced, verges have 3- to 5-foot square grates for street trees.

Street trees are generally spaced 25 to 30 feet on-center and are normally centered in the verge strip.

SIDEWALKS

Nineteenth-century neighborhoods frequently have sidewalks made of poured concrete, brick, or slate. Sidewalks are 4 to 8 feet wide.

Landscape Character

LIGHTING

Since gas street lamps did not illuminate a large area, street lights were relatively short, 10 to 14 feet tall, and occurred every 25 to 30 feet. Street lamps were made of cast iron and often had exquisite detailing. Although gas is no longer used for street lighting, electric streetlights in these neighborhoods continue this design tradition. Many houses have period lighting flanking the front door mounted to the wall or a porch ceiling light as an accent.

FENCING & GARDEN WALLS

Fences and walls provide delineation between public and private space and are strongly recommended on corner lots and between houses. Garden walls may be built of brick, stone, wrought iron or wood. Fence and wall designs are related to the design and period of the house. Some examples of fences and walls are illustrated in the Landscape Patterns Sec-

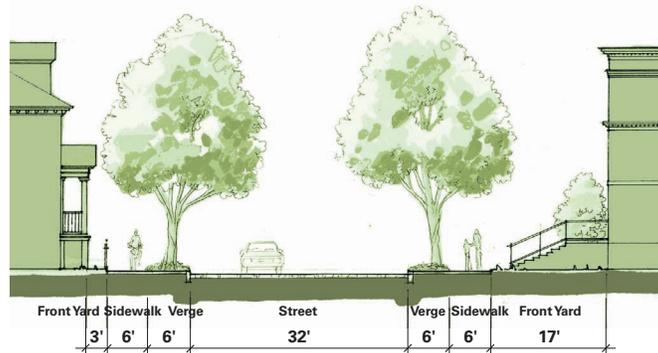
tion. Front yard fences are always low and relatively open to create a neighborly sense of place.

RETAINING WALLS & STEPS

Steps set in low retaining walls are often used to delineate public and semi-private realms. Retaining walls range from 12 to 18 inches tall and stairs never have more than three steps leading up to the yard. Low retaining walls are generally built of stone or brick capped with stone.

PLANTING

Over the course of the nineteenth century, the approach toward landscaping changed. In the early Victorian era, planting was confined to small gardens away from the building, and grass marched all the way up to the base of the house. Later, homeowners began ringing their houses with plants to give them a picturesque look. Hedges may be used along property lines to create an ‘outside room.’



A typical street section in the Ghent neighborhood

